



Black Legislator Changes

Delaware Leads in Increasing Black Representation Among State Legislators



Delaware Overview

Over the past two election cycles, the Delaware General Assembly has seen a significant increase in Black elected officials. Delaware's General Assembly went from four Black elected officials in 2015 (including three State Representatives and one State Senator) to twelve Black elected officials after the 2020 election (including nine State Representatives and three State Senators). Overall, Delaware saw a 13.35% increase in Black representation in the Delaware General Assembly between 2015 and 2021.

Nationwide Overview

Overall, only five states saw a 5% or higher increase in Black state legislator representation, including: Delaware (13.35%), Maryland (7.85%), Nevada (7.46%), Colorado (6%), and Washington (5.12%). On the other end of the spectrum, despite being the home of Vice President Kamala Harris, California had the largest decrease, losing 2.33% of its Black State legislative representation.

Top 5 States for % Increase in Black State Legislature Composition

State	% of Black state legislators in 2015	% of Black state legislators in 2021	% increase in Black state legislators (2015-2021)
<u>Delaware</u>	6%	19.35%	<u>13.35%</u>
Maryland	23%	30.85%	7.85%
Nevada	10%	17.46%	7.46%
Colorado	3%	9.00%	6.00%
Washington	1%	6.12%	5.12%

Bottom 5 States for % Increase in Black State Legislature Composition

State	% of Black state legislators in 2015	% of Black state legislators in 2021	% increase in Black state legislators (2015-2021)
Arkansas	11%	10.37%	-0.63%
Idaho	1%	0.00%	-1.00%
Utah	2%	0.96%	-1.04%
Alabama	24%	22.86%	-1.14%
California	9%	6.67%	-2.33%

Resources for More Information

To see the table of all 50 state legislatures as measured by Black representation, scan the QR code to the right. The 2015 data comes from the [Who We Elect report](#) from the National Conference on State Legislatures while the 2021 data can be found in [Blacks in State Legislatures: A State-by-State Map analysis](#) from [Governing.com](#) along with data from state legislative Black caucuses.

